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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/027,233	12/27/2001	Katsutoshi Nakamura	Q67897	9112

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Washington, DC 20037-3213

EXAMINER

KHOMASSI, NIMA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2132

DATE MAILED: 09/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/027,233

Applicant(s)

NAKAMURA, KATSUTOSHI

Examiner

Nima Khomassi

Art Unit

2132

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |



DETAILED ACTION

1. The application having Application No. 10,027,233 has a total of 18 claims pending in the application; there are 6 independent claims and 12 dependent claims, all of which are ready for examination by the examiner. Claims 1-18 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Regarding claims 1-18, the term "interest" renders the claims indefinite as the term lacks specificity and is thus unclear.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hunt, C., et al., Windows NT TCP/IP Network Administration, O'Reilly Publishing, October 1998 (herein referred to as Reference 1). To the extent understood (due to the aforementioned indefinite rejection), the claims have been reviewed by the examiner.

5. As per claim 1, Reference 1 depict a method of controlling levels of access permission, implemented in a system in which any of plural levels of access permission that define limits of information available is assigned to each user so that when a user authorized to have access makes a request for the access, the user is permitted to access information within the limits of the access permission level, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting, on the basis of user's history of access requests, the extent of user's interest in the information to be provided and/or changes in the interest (section 12.6, fig. 12-4, fig. 12-5, fig. 12-6); and

allowing the level of access permission currently assigned to the user to be changed to another level according to the detected extent of user's interest and/or changes in the interest (section 12.1.2.1, para. 1, 2).

6. As per claim 2, Reference 1 depict the method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

holding identification information settable by each user for identifying the user (section 12.4, para. 1, 2); and

asking the user as the source of an access request to input the identification information so as to define such a permission condition that the user is normally identified using the identification information (section 12.4, para. 1, 2), wherein

said detection step has detection of the extent of user's interest and/or changes in the interest on the basis of user's history after the last setting of the identification information (section 12.6, fig. 12-4, 12-5, 12-6).

7. As per claim 3, Reference 1 depict a method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of asking the user as the source of the access request to update the identification information when the detected extent of user's interest and/or changes in the interest meet predetermined conditions (section 12.4.3, para. 1, 2, fig. 12-3).
8. As per claim 4, Reference 1 depict a method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of changing the level of access permission currently assigned to the user as the source of the access request to a level narrower in scope than that defined by the current level when the identification information has not been updated (section 12.4.3, para. 1).
9. As per claim 5, Reference 1 depict a method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of changing the user as the source of the access request to update the identification information when the detected extent of user's and/or changes in the interest show that the number of times access is requested exceeds a predetermined number of times (section 12.4.3, para. 1).
10. As per claim 6, Reference 1 depict a method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of changing the level of access permission currently assigned to the user as the source of the access request to a level narrower in scope than that defined by the current level when the identification information has not been updated (section 12.4.3, para. 1).

11. As per claim 7, Reference 1 depict a method according to any one of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

assigning each user, in exchange for entries of information related to the user, identification information for identifying the user and a level of access permission defined according to the contents of the information entered (section 12.4, para. 1, 2); and

asking the user as the source of an access request to input the identification information assigned so as to define an access condition that the user is normally identified using the input identification information (section 12.4.1, para. 1, lines 1-2), wherein

said detection step has detection of the extent of user's interest and/or changes in the interest on the basis of user's history after the last setting of the identification information (section 12.4.3, para. 1, 2, fig. 12-3).

12. As per claim 8, Reference 1 depict a method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of asking the user as the source of the access request to enter user's information again when the detected extent of user's interest and/or changes in the interest meet predetermined conditions (section 12.4.3, para. 1).

13. As per claim 9, Reference 1 depict a method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of changing the level of access permission currently assigned to the user as the source of the access request to a level narrower in scope than that defined by the current level when the user has not entered user's

information in response to said step of asking the user to enter the information again (section 12.4.3, para. 1).

14. As per claim 10, Reference 1 depict a method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of deleting the identification information assigned to the user when the user has not entered user's information in response to said step of asking the user to enter the information again (section 12.4.3, para. 1).
15. As per claim 11, Reference 1 depict a method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of asking the user as the source of the access request to enter user's information again when the detection result of the extent of user's interest and/or changes in the interest show that a predetermined number of days have elapsed since the last access request (section 12.4.3, para. 1, 2, fig. 12-3).
16. As per claim 12, Reference 1 depict a method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of changing the level of access permission currently assigned to the user as the source of the access request to a level narrower in scope than that defined by the current level when the user has not entered user's information in response to said step of urging the user to enter the information again (section 12.4.3, para. 1).
17. As per claim 13, Reference 1 depict a method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of deleting the identification information assigned to the user when the user has not entered user's information in response to said step of asking the user to enter the information again (section 12.4.3, para. 1).

18. As per claim 14, Reference 1 depict a method of controlling levels of access permission, implemented in a system in which any of plural levels of access permission that define limits of one or more apparatuses available is assigned to each user so that when a user authorized to have access make a request for the access, the user is permitted to use the one or more apparatuses within the limits of the access permission level, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting, on the basis of user's history of access requests, the extent of user's interest in the one or more apparatuses to be used and/or changes in the interest (section 12.6, fig. 12-4, fig. 12-5, fig. 12-6); and

allowing the level of access permission currently assigned to the user to be changed to another level according to the detected extent of user's interest and/or changes in the interest (section 12.1.2.1, para. 1, 2).

19. As per claim 15, Reference 1 depict a method controlling access levels of access permission, implemented in a computer system for providing digital information to add a processing function as needed to a terminal operated by a user, in which any of plural levels of access permission that define limits of digital information accessible is assigned to each user so that when a user authorized to have access makes a request for the access, the user is permitted to access the digital information within the limits of the access permission level, said method comprising steps of:

detecting, on the basis of user's history of access requests, the extent of user's interest in the digital information to be provided and/or changes in the interest (section 12.6, fig. 12-4, fig. 12-5, fig. 12-6); and

allowing the level of access permission currently assigned to the user to be changed to another level according to the detected extent of user's interest and/or changes in the interest (section 12.1.2.1, para. 1, 2).

20. As per claim 16, Reference 1 depict an apparatus for controlling levels of access permission, applied to a computer system in which any of plural levels of access permission that define limits of information available is assigned to each user so that when a user authorized to have access makes a request for the access, the user is permitted to access information within the limits of the access permission level; said apparatus comprising:

means for monitoring, on the basis of user's history of access requests, the extent of user's interest in the information to be provided and/or changes in the interest (section 12.6, fig. 12-4, fig. 12-5, fig. 12-6); and

means for allowing the level of access permission currently assigned to the user to be changed to another level according to the detected extent of user's interest and/or changes in the interest (section 12.1.2.1, para. 1, 2).

21. As per claim 17, Reference 1 depict an apparatus for controlling levels of access permission, applied to a computer system in which any of plural levels of access permission that define limits of one or more apparatuses available is assigned to each user so that when a user authorized to have access makes a

request for the access, the user is permitted to use the one or more apparatuses within the limits of the access permission level, said apparatus comprising:

means for monitoring, on the basis of user's history of access requests, the extent of user's interest in the one or more apparatuses to be used and/or changes in the interest (section 12.6, fig. 12-4, fig. 12-5, fig. 12-6); and

means for allowing the level of access permission currently assigned to the user to be changed to another level according to the detected extent of user's interest and/or changes in the interest (section 12.1.2.1, para. 1, 2).

22. As per claim 18, Reference 1 depict an apparatus for controlling levels of access permission, applied to a computer system for providing digital information to add a processing function as needed to a terminal operated by a user, in which any of plural levels of access permission that define limits of digital information available is assigned to each user so that when a user authorized to have access makes a request for the access, the user is permitted to access the digital information within the limits of the access permission level, said apparatus comprising:

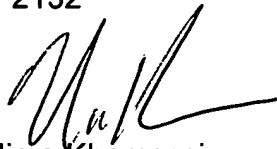
means for monitoring, on the basis of user's history of access requests, the extent of user's interest in the digital information to be provided and/or changes in the interest (section 12.6, fig. 12-4, fig. 12-5, fig. 12-6); and

means for allowing the level of access permission currently assigned to the user to be changed to another level according to the detected extent of user's interest and/or changes in the interest (section 12.1.2.1, para. 1, 2).

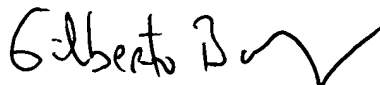
Conclusion

23. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Nima Khomassi whose telephone number is (571) 272-3775. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.
24. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron Jr., can be reached at (571) 272-3799.
25. The fax number for Formal or Official faxes to Technology Center 2100 is 571-273-8300. On July 15, 2005, the Central Facsimile (FAX) Number changed from 703-872-9306 to 571-273-8300. Faxes sent to the old number will be routed to the new number until September 15, 2005. After September 15, 2005, the old number will no longer be in service and 571-273-8300 will be the only facsimile number recognized for centralized delivery.
26. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have any questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Art Unit: 2132



Nima Khomassi
September 9, 2005
Art Unit #2132



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